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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Bruce Foster

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EXAMINER

EPSHTEYN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/648,453	Applicant(s) FOSTER, BRUCE	
	Examiner Alex Epshteyn	Art Unit 3713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/24/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities: "...the conductive pattern of at least one of the of a substrates" should be changed to "...the conductive pattern of at least one of the substrates." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 9-14, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Billings et al. (US Patent 5,087,043).

In regards to claims 1 and 12, Billings teaches of a puzzle comprising a base having a receiving area, a plurality of puzzle pieces, the puzzle pieces being sized for placement on the receiving area and cooperating to form an assembled image, and a sound generator mounted to the base and arranged for connection to a power source (2: 25-47). Billings further teaches of the puzzle containing multiple substrates including a first substrate and a second substrate arranged for placement beneath the receiving area. The first substrate includes a conductive pattern operatively coupled to the sound generator and the second substrate comprises a plurality of conductive dots, where a portion of the conductive pattern is disposed beneath a selected portion of the image (column 5, and figure 2). The conductive dot and the conductive pattern are

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displaceable to permit contact between the conductive pattern and the conductive dot upon pressing the selected portion of the image such that the first and second substrates cooperate to form an electrical circuit (5: 43-48).

In regards to claims 2, 4, and 13, Billings teaches of a substrate that is made of paper (5: 38-42) and the conductive pattern and the ink used to print the conductive pattern is inherently composed of a conductive material.

In regards to claims 3 and 14, Billings teaches of a third substrate having an aperture disposed adjacent to the first and second substrates (5: 34-37).

In regards to claims 9 and 18, Billings teaches of a conductive pattern that includes a first portion and a second portion, where the portions are aligned to the different portions of the puzzle, and wherein the conductive dot is arranged to connect the first portion and the second portion upon pressing the selected portion of the image (column 5).

In regards to claim 10 and 19, Billings teaches of a puzzle where the first substrate includes a plurality of conductive patterns, the second substrate includes a plurality of conductive dots, and the assembled image includes a plurality of selected portions, wherein the sound generator is arranged to generate a distinct sound in response to pressing each of the plurality of selected portions (5: 43-65).

In regards to claim 11, Billings teaches of including a plurality of tabs in the substrates so as to effectively retain the substrates in the base (6: 9-36).

In regards to claim 20, Billings teaches of a puzzle comprising a base having a receiving area, a plurality of puzzle pieces, the puzzle pieces sized for placement on the

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receiving area and adapted to form an assembled image having a plurality of selected areas, and a sound generator mounted to the base and arranged for connection to a power source, and an electrical circuit disposed beneath the receiving area and formed by a first substrate and a second substrate, the first substrate having a plurality of conductive ink patterns and the second substrate having a plurality of conductive ink dots, where the patterns of the first substrate and the dots of the second substrate align to operate the sound generator (2: 25-48). Billings also teaches of a third substrate positioned to maintain the dots and the patterns in spaced relation until the selected area is depressed (5: 34-37).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-8 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Billings.

In regards to claim 5 and 15, while Billings does not explicitly teach of the third substrate being comprised of the same single paperboard as the first and second substrate, it would be obvious for one skilled in the art to make the substrates out of the same material so as to save on material and production costs.

In regards to claim 6, while Billings does not explicitly teach of paperboard that is die cut, Billings does teach of cutout pieces such as puzzle pieces and electronic board pieces. It is obvious to one skilled in the art that a cutout piece must have had to be cut.

In regards to claim 7 and 16, Billings does not teach of separating the substrates with fold lines. However, it is obvious to one skilled in the art that separating different components of an electrical system with fold lines is a common technique to permit portability and ease of maintenance of the different electrical components. Thus, it would be obvious for one skilled in the art to incorporate separating the different substrates of Billings with fold lines.

In regards to claim 8 and 17, while Billings does not explicitly teach of applying the conductive ink of the substrates in one printing operation, it is obvious for one skilled in the art to only use one printing operation to perform a printing action. This reduces costs since multiple printing operations cost more production cost and occupy more time to produce the product. Thus, it would be obvious for one skilled in the art to use only one printing operation to print the conductive ink on the substrates.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alex Epshteyn whose telephone number is 571-272-5561. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8 - 4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571-272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



XUAN M. THAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TC3700